

# SNAP!

NOTHING BUT THE BARE FACTS!

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## Skippy gets bushwhacked

12 PROTESTERS scaled the Australian High Commission fences in Thorndon Wellington in solidarity with actions for indigenous justice and in opposition to police brutality against First Nation peoples in Australia. In a satirical protest 'colonists' staked survey pegs to the grounds but were interrupted by a kangaroo that was soon apprehended and 'silenced.'

The protesters declared *Terra Nullius* over the Commission grounds. Declaring indigenous lands "*Terra Nullius*" (empty land) was a legal tactic used by colonial powers to deny the sovereignty of indigenous peoples

and steal their land. The tactic was used in Australia and in South Island of New Zealand.

One of the protesters said "We are thoroughly disturbed by the silence of the New Zealand government and media over the abuses and terror tactics used by the Australian state recently against the people of Palm Island. This silence mirrors the suppression of indigenous rights in Aotearoa/NZ, the latest phase



shown by the implementation of the Foreshore and Seabed legislation." The group called upon the Australia and New Zealand governments to recognise indigenous sovereignty.

## "We can't pay, we won't pay"

LAST DECADE a silent revolution defeated the government's decision to charge \$31 a visit to outpatients at public hospitals. No demos, no chanting 2,4,6,8. Enough people didn't pay their charges to make the scheme a financial flop. Administration costs and debt collectors' fees proved too much. The charges were dropped.

Now Capital and Coast District Health Board has decided to charge fees to some patients at the new Kenepuru Accident and Medical clinic as of next April. The Board is also looking to

charge similar fees to patients at Wellington Accident and Emergency. The charges will apply to After Hours patients if people might have gone to their own GP instead of hospital – a rule which puts a dangerous burden of diagnosis on the patient or someone close to them.

The need for the charges arose from so called Minister of Health Annette King refusing to pay anything toward the cost of the Kenepuru clinic. Individuals in one of the most poverty stricken parts of NZ are being subject to user pays. Typical! Another rea-

son for the charges is that private GPs will be staffing the Kenepuru After Hours clinic on contract to the government. These caring professionals don't want to lose money because people come to hospital instead of their surgeries.

At the same time doctors running the Adelaide Road After Hours clinic are facing financial problems due to exorbitant charges and would like to transfer to Wellington A&E and make money after hours on public premises. The whole sordid mess will descend on people early next year. The remedy – DON'T PAY!

## AntiClaus and Saturnalia regained

IN ANCIENT Rome December 17th marked the beginning of the week-long winter solstice festival known as the Saturnalia. For the duration of this holiday the world of antiquity was turned right-side up: masters waited on their servants, offices of state were held by slaves, the courts and the schools were closed and the realm of work was subordinated to the realm of unfettered pleasures. A Lord of Misrule was appointed to preside over the festival, a tradition that was carried on by the English for the Feast of Fools, the Scottish with their Abbot of Unreason and French *Prince de Sots*.

The Saturnalia was a festival notorious for its disorderly and

licentious ways, as revellers attempted to revive the sun (represented by the Roman god Saturn) as it lingered over the earth at its lowest point. Gifts were exchanged, large drunken parties were thrown and people even fucked in the fields to increase the fertility of the soil.

What remains of this subversive carnival is a parody of a parody. Not Saturn and not even the man-god Jesus in whose name the Saturnalia was both condemned and co-opted around 400 A.D., but the commodity, the god of the capitalist economy that holds sway over everything, now has its mundane solstice in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres in mid-December.

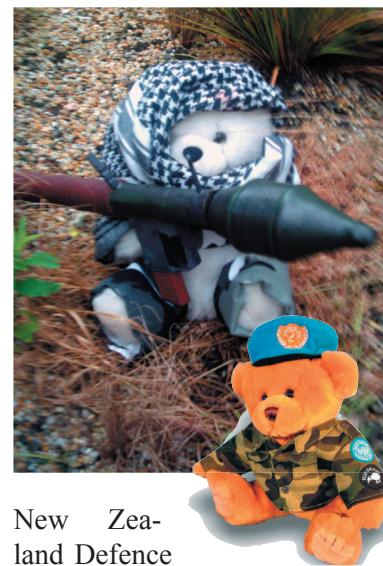
Instead of the relaxation of work, this "holiday" period is a time of labour intensification, as millions of tired workers are obliged to perpetuate the myth of a "giving" capitalism. Under the guise of festivity, even more mandatory submission to the Lord of the Free Market, the Coca Cola Claus, is required. Further, this once-a-year obligatory gift-giving reveals consumption for what it is: another form of work. Advertisements that repeatedly claim new ways to "make gift-giving easy" show how alien the spirit of giving is to the capitalist system.

In fact, less than a celebration of the commodity, as wearied consumers resentfully trudge around the shopping malls of the world,

## Bare-faced militarism

THERE'S barely anything that's immune from appropriation by the military today, so in response to TelstraClear's promotion of teddy bears dressed up in military uniform, SNAP! is offering a Fallujah Freedom Fighter Bear. Bearing a SRG grenade launcher, Freedom Fighter Bear is ready for combat with the evil infidels occupying Iraq. Each bear is 26cm tall and his cuddly nature makes him the perfect gift for family, friends or even yourself. Team him up against Telstra's cuddly New Zealand Defence Force peacekeeper bear or NZ air force bear.

(TelstraClear is selling military bears for the KidCare Foundation in conjunction with the



New Zealand Defence Force. The KidCare Foundation provides early intervention for children emotionally or physically affected by abuse, neglect, poverty or illness... or maybe even war?)

## Bypass arrests, arson and surveillance

ABA 1, Transit 0 (odds on bypass completion 1000:1)

Following last week's successful trench-filling, Anti Bypass Action kicked off the week with a strong peaceful protest against the planned inner-city bypass. A noisy colourful assembly of angry Wellingtonians marched from Civic Square to Upper Cuba Street where they were prevented from entering Tonks Ave by a line of police. Two journalists were

arrested, and two protestors were assaulted after police became agitated, and the police have subsequently warned journalists not to get too close to protest action. The protest ended at Kensington St community gardens with free soup and bread.

Transit has upped the anti on surveillance by housing security guards in the old brothel on Abel/Willis Streets which has become a 24 hour security post.



A badly disguised Chubb guard stationed in an empty house in Abel Smith Street has been secretly photographing local residents, taking it upon himself to chase one suspected activist

who had been visiting a friend's house. Plain clothes police have stopped people on the street to quiz them about bypass connections. Contractors have erected more fences along the bypass route and started digging foundations around the old laundromat on the corner of Victoria & Abel Smith Streets.

While the police and security were busy with spying and intimidation – a fire was started in one of the houses in Tonks Ave. The cottage, which was well over a hundred years old, was gutted by the suspected arson.

Further action plans for resisting the bypass will be discussed at a public meeting on Thursday night at Aro Community Hall.

Watch SNAP! For Bypass news and updates on best bets.